

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 11-20 are pending in the present application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected all of the pending claims under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Snyder (US 6643641 B1) in view of Dillon et al. (US 2003/0088562 A1) and over Zilberstein et al. (US 6060657 B1) in view of Dillon et al. Applicants note that the filing date of the Japanese application from which the present application claims priority is December 18, 2000. This date precedes the U.S. filing date of Dillon, whether it be the non-provisional filing date (December 27, 2001) or one of the provisional filing dates (December 28, 2000 and February 1, 2001). Applicants submitted a translation of the Japanese application along with the requisite statement as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a)(4) on May 30, 2006. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

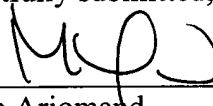
In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032029200.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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